

Village Life

One by one the villagers emerge from the houses, and sit in the sun, greeting neighbours with a polite "Have you slept well?" if there are any neighbours near. Then the husband milks the cattle, and the boys come to drive them out to the pasture, where they will remain until the early afternoon, when they are again milked. 27 572 [576]

Generally the cattle sleep in the same house as their owners, tied up to stakes fixed deep in the floor; but where there are grown-up sons not yet married, a separate house is built in which the parents sleep with the little ones, while the young men guard the cattle from raiding thieves. 231 592

The bed is frequently no more than a mat spread on the mud floor, with a single blanket for covering, and no pillow, unless it is a piece of roughly trimmed wood. The more prosperous natives, earning good pay in the employment of Europeans, have well-made beds fully equipped, in many cases even with mosquito nets hung from the roof. The poorer consider that they have made a great step forward if they have been able to save up enough money to buy a single blanket, and not seldom even that belongs to the father, the mother and children having to be content with meagre coverings of calico or grass mats. But the house is warm, often too warm, for the fire is always burning, the door is closed, there are no windows, and there is no ventilation in the roof; and all the inmates sleep with their feet to the fire, which is in the middle of the floor. 573 [354]

Here and there one will come upon rows of tiny houses, each built and occupied by two or three small 342 561